

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 7, No. 23

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

June 17, 2005

## MAG-11 Marines remember one of their own

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

An unknown Marine walked purposefully toward his vehicle. Suddenly, sharply the dull roar and beat of jets and helicopters are drowned out by the crack of a rifle salute.

The lone Marine immediately stopped, turned toward the shots and rendered a salute for the remaining volleys, knowing a brother in arms, a fellow Marine, had lost his life and was being remembered.

Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, along with family and friends memorialized Lance Cpl. David L. Abeyta, administrative clerk, Group Personnel Administrative Center, MAG-11, 3rd MAW, June 9 at MCAS Miramar's Airmen Memorial Chapel. Abeyta was killed May 20 in a car accident in Green River, Utah, while traveling home on leave.

Born Aug. 16, 1985 in Delta, Colo., Abeyta spent his first 18 years there until joining the Marine Corps March 21, 2003. He reported for duty with Group Personnel Administrative Center, MAG-11, Jan. 15, 2004.

Abeyta deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from Feb. 23, 2004 to Sept. 11, 2004.

At the memorial, Lt. Col. Philippe D. Rogers, commanding officer, Headquarters Squadron, MAG-11, remarked that upon his visit to Abeyta's hometown, his family and friends spoke gratefully and respectfully of his service to his country and contributions to the town during his youth.

"Time has come, time has gone. It was the value of his presence that made us strong... A person who fought for his country, and fought for our freedom. A Marine. For he made a lifetime of memories at the age of nineteen," wrote Abeyta's uncle Michael Abeyta in a poem placed on the back page of the memorial service pamphlet.

According to his friends within MAG-11, Abeyta enjoyed playing basketball and was a valuable member of the GPAC softball team.



A photo of Lance Cpl. David L. Abeyta, administrative clerk, Group Personnel Administrative Center, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, stands on the altar during a memorial service at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Airmen Memorial Chapel. Abeyta was killed May 20 in a car accident in Green River, Utah, while traveling home on leave. In attendance were his family, friends and members of the air station community. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

Private first class Stephanie M. Smith, a friend and fellow Marine with GPAC, eulogized Abeyta, "I met David Abeyta in December of 2004... I was pretty shy and self-contained, but the right person can break that shell. I am proud to say that the first crack in my shell was made by David.

"I encourage you all to keep a part of him for yourself," Smith said. "Above all, remember the things that stood out, the things that connected the two of you on a personal level. Remember what was important to him and make it important to you."

## DoD won't resort to draft or sacrifice recruitment standards

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON — Despite recruiting shortfalls for the active Army and all reserve components except the Air Force Reserve in May, defense officials strive to fill the ranks with the highest-quality recruits possible and have no intention of supporting a draft.

The Department of Defense released May recruiting and retention statistics for all four services June 10, providing a department-wide manpower picture.

The Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force all met or exceeded their May recruiting goals, but the Army fell short by 25 percent. During May, the Army had hoped to recruit 6,700 new members but missed that mark by 1,661 recruits, DoD officials said.

The Navy enlisted 1,947 members in May; the Marine Corps, 1,904; and the Air Force, 1,049.

On the reserve component front, the Air Force Reserve surpassed its recruiting goal for the seventh consecutive month, enlisting 682 recruits. And while the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve brought aboard more recruits than

in any month since October, all fell short of their goals for May, officials said.

The Army Reserve met 82 percent of its May recruitment goal, enlisting 2,269 Soldiers. The Naval Reserve brought aboard 1,074 Sailors, reaching 94 percent of its May goal; and the Marine Corps Reserve met 88 percent of its recruiting goal, recruiting 955 Marines.

While recruiting numbers for May were lower than hoped — something defense officials acknowledged was expected during the slow spring recruiting season — every service met or exceeded its retention goals for the month.

That's positive news, because military readiness depends on both recruiting and retention, and success in one can help offset shortages in the other, Bill Carr, acting deputy undersecretary for Military Personnel Policy, said during a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

"Retention has overachieved, and that has helped the underachievement in some parts of the recruiting effort," Carr said.

While acknowledging that all the components "had another tough month" re-

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69°/62°  
Today

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Saturday

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firefighters  
train with  
real fire  
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# Hagee: Adaptable tactics helping to defeat 'thinking enemy'

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — America's armed forces face a "thinking enemy" on the battlefield, and defeating it demands adaptable tactics and a fast application of lessons learned, the commandant of the Marine Corps said June 8.

"We're going against a smart enemy. That's really important to remember," Gen. Michael W. Hagee said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel.

"We are also going against a very dedicated enemy, and sometimes we forget that," Hagee continued. "They believe just as strongly - I think incorrectly, but just as strongly - in what they are trying to achieve as we believe in what we are trying to achieve."

Keeping ahead of such a committed enemy requires more than just smarts, the general said. It requires adjusting tactics based on the threat, putting lessons learned into practice quickly and entrusting junior- and mid-grade troops to make decisions.

The threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices demonstrates exactly what U.S. and coalition forces are up against, Hagee said.

"If we make a change in our tactics or our technology to counter what the enemy is doing with Improvised Explosive Devices, based on current data, the enemy can respond to a change in our tactics within seven to 10 days and change their tactic," he said. "So this is a constant fight."

"Whenever you are going against a thinking enemy, you cannot always use one tactic, because he will respond to that," Hagee explained. "So we have to be able to change our techniques ... our tactics ... our training to respond to this changing battlefield."

Similarly, Hagee said, it's important to pass on lessons being learned on the battlefield quickly so other servicemembers can benefit from them.

During the past 18 months, the Marine Corps has made big strides in collecting lessons learned in Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa and presenting them to Marines preparing for deployment, he said. "We are collecting those lessons in real time, and literally, in a matter of days, we are integrating those lessons into our program of instruction," Hagee said.

The result, he said, is more fluid curriculum that better

prepares Marines for what they'll face on the ground.

"A company or battalion going through the training right now will receive slightly different training than the company or battalion that went through just a couple of weeks ago," he said. "So when that battalion arrives on the battlefield, it is going to be better trained and have a better understanding of what the situation is, wherever they happen to be at that particular time."

The next step, he said, is determining which lessons learned have enough long-term consequence to be incorporated into Marine Corps doctrine. When appropriate, the Marine Corps "will change our doctrine on the fly to ensure that we have the best current training that we can provide the Marine, and that we are modifying our doctrine based on what is happening on the battlefield," he said.

As it adapts to the changing situation on the ground and passes on lessons learned, the Marine Corps is focusing on ensuring its members have the education and training they need to carry out their mission.

"In order to be successful on today's battlefield, you have got to be smart," Hagee said. "We are up against a thinking enemy, and in order to outthink him, our individual Marines have to be smart."

They also have to be properly educated and trained so they can think on their feet and have confidence in their abilities, he said.

The Marine Corps has done a good job of educating its officers, but "can significantly improve how we educate our young enlisted Marines," Hagee said. Doing so, he said, will better prepare them to make critical decisions on the battlefield, particularly when they're operating independently and unable to seek advice from their leaders.

"That sergeant has to have the technology and the education to make those critical decisions that he is going to have to make on the battlefield," Hagee said. "He is probably not going to have time to call back to his platoon commander or company commander and say, 'What should I do now?' He is going to have to make the decision."

And the commandant said he recognizes the importance of many of the decisions these Marines - whom he refers to as "the strategic corporal" or "the strategic sergeant" - will make. "In many cases, the decision that he or she makes is going to have strategic significance," he said.

would fly directly to the ships and begin preparations.

"We'll do the rehearsal, the arrival (and) assembly at sea, and then launch them to wherever they need to go," Hagee said. "It is essentially using the sea as maneuver space."

This will significantly reduce the time it takes to deploy Marines to operations, whether they're major combat operations or humanitarian relief efforts, the general said.

"For example, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, we put about 60,000 to 70,000 Marines and Sailors into Kuwait, with all their equipment, ready to cross the line of departure (into Iraq) in less than 60 days," he said.

Despite that impressive speed, which Hagee said "no one else in the world" can match, seabasing will make

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## MIRAMARKS

"What does the term 'strategic corporal' mean to you?"

### CPL. KYLE BRAYER

Ordnanceman  
MALS-16

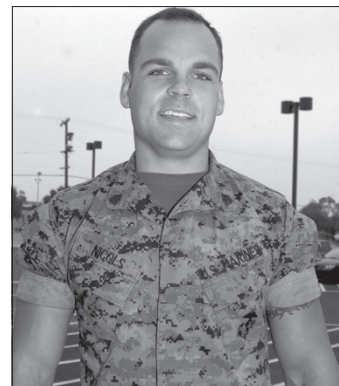
"A corporal that thinks before he makes decisions that are good for both his unit and the Marine Corps."



### SGT. GARRICK NICOLS

Military Policeman  
H&HS

"Somebody you can go to for a different look on things. Even as a sergeant, I learn things all the time from corporals, lance corporals and below."



## FLIGHT JACKET

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# Military Appreciation Day gives back to Marines

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Walking from booth to booth in the gloomy gray drizzle, Sgt. Cecilio Garcia couldn't help but grin as he filled up his two plastic bags with an assortment of free goodies.

As an administrative clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Garcia is used to having Marines thank him for his help with their leave, pay and other issues.

On June 9 however, Garcia received a different form of gratitude at the 5th annual Military Appreciation Day.

In conjunction with local San Diego businesses, MCAS Miramar Marine Corps Community Services hosted the two-hour long event to thank Garcia and other Marines and Sailors aboard Miramar for their continued day-to-day efforts in supporting the country.

Military supporters offered free food, baseball tickets and ceramic frog piggybanks to Marines who spent their lunch breaks walking from booth to booth in the Bowling Center parking lot.

"What else can I say, I feel appreciated," said Garcia as he looked down at his jumbo-sized bag of potato chips, cup of pasta and ceramic mug. "I'm really grateful for all the sponsors who came out here and did this for us. It really makes us feel valued."

Richard Soule, director, MCAS Miramar MCCA, had Marines like Garcia in mind when he created the appreciation day. Soule wanted to thank the local Marines and boost their morale after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, so he turned to the Miramar Air Show sponsors and other local businesses for their support.

"The vendors really look forward to coming out here every year to show the military just how much they really are appreciated," said Denise Fairbanks, special event manager, MCCA. "If it wasn't for the sponsors, there wouldn't be an event."

Navy Federal Credit Union, the presenting sponsor, had a lot of fun giving away prizes and interacting with the servicemembers.

"This gives us an opportunity to show our support for all that the Marines and Sailors are doing," said Cathy Spetter, regional marketing manager, NFCU, as servicemembers spun their homemade wheel at a chance to win prizes and baseball tickets. "The one-on-one interaction helps make the event great. I especially enjoy seeing the smiles on all of their faces."

Every time a Marine came to spin the wheel, the NFCU



**Staff Sgt. Milton Lawrence, aviation supply clerk, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, shows off his four Padres baseball tickets that he won at the 5th annual Military Appreciation Day June 9 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Lawrence and many other Marines filled their bags with free goodies local sponsors provided during two-hour event. Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones**

representatives would shout out words of encouragement like "come on, land on four stars!" If a Marine landed on that spot, they would receive four tickets to a Padres baseball game.

When Staff Sgt. Milton Lawrence, aviation supply clerk, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, spun the wheel he expected to win a mug or notepad. Lawrence was shocked when he won the tickets.

Spetter smiled as Lawrence's expression grew and his eyes bulged.

"This is why we come here," she said. "He can take his buddies and have a good time and that makes it worth it."

Though Garcia didn't win any big prizes, he left the event feeling very appreciated.

"This is my third time here, and I plan on coming back next year," he said. "Besides, what beats free food?"



**Marines race miniature cars at the Behind the Wheel Racing event at the 5th annual Military Appreciation Day June 9 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Local sponsors, gave away free prizes to the Marines for their day-to-day efforts supporting the country. Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones**

## SEABASING continued from page 2

deployments even faster.

"With seabasing, we will be able to put 15,000 Marines and Sailors anywhere in the world in 10 to 12 days," he said. "We can't do that today, but ... between 2015 and 2020, we are going to be able to do that."

Seabasing will eliminate the need for a land base when conducting military operations.

"If, in 2020, we had to do (OIF)," Hagee said, "ships would come into the (Persian) Gulf, we'd do the arrival and assembly at sea, (and) the Marines would launch - instead of from Kuwait, from the sea base - directly into ... Iraq."

The ability to respond more quickly to operations or contingencies can have a big impact on how they proceed, the commandant said.

"At the same time, you keep your footprint very small ashore," Hagee said, reducing the likelihood of force protection problems and better recognizing the host country's autonomy.

"What we want to do is erase that line between the sea and land," said Hagee. "That's the vision."

**"What else can I say, I feel appreciated."**

**Sgt. Cecilio Garcia**

**administrative clerk**

**Marine Corps Air Station Miramar**



# Avionics Marines keep sophisticated jets safe

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

One of the most critical systems inside the F/A-18C Hornet is also sometimes considered to be one of the most challenging — avionics.

The avionics Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fight against the technological failures that try to plague their planes.

“The main mission of the avionics Marines is to maintain all electrical systems on the F/A-18 aircraft from communication to navigation,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gary Crawford, avionics officer, VMFA-314. “We work with any type of electrical system on the aircraft.”

According to Staff Sgt. Todd Tubach, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, avionics, VMFA-314, responsibilities for all of the electronic systems on the F/A-18 fall on his Marines, so they have to be very thorough with system checks because anything can fail.

“Dealing with an avionics failure can be a hard thing to do because everything we handle is so broad,” said Tubach. “There are backup systems the pilot can use (if a failure occurs during flight), but problems can arise at any time.”

According to Cpl. Reynaldo Salgado, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, avionics, VMFA-314, avionic systems are a lot like your home computer, it can do unwanted things at any time.

“Like everything else, there is no way to prevent these failures from happening unless you don’t use it,” said Tubach. “We do certain tests to ensure the systems are working properly before the aircraft take off, but that doesn’t mean they won’t have a problem.”

However, the Marine Corps only picks some of the best Marines to be a part of this field and do the things these Marines do.

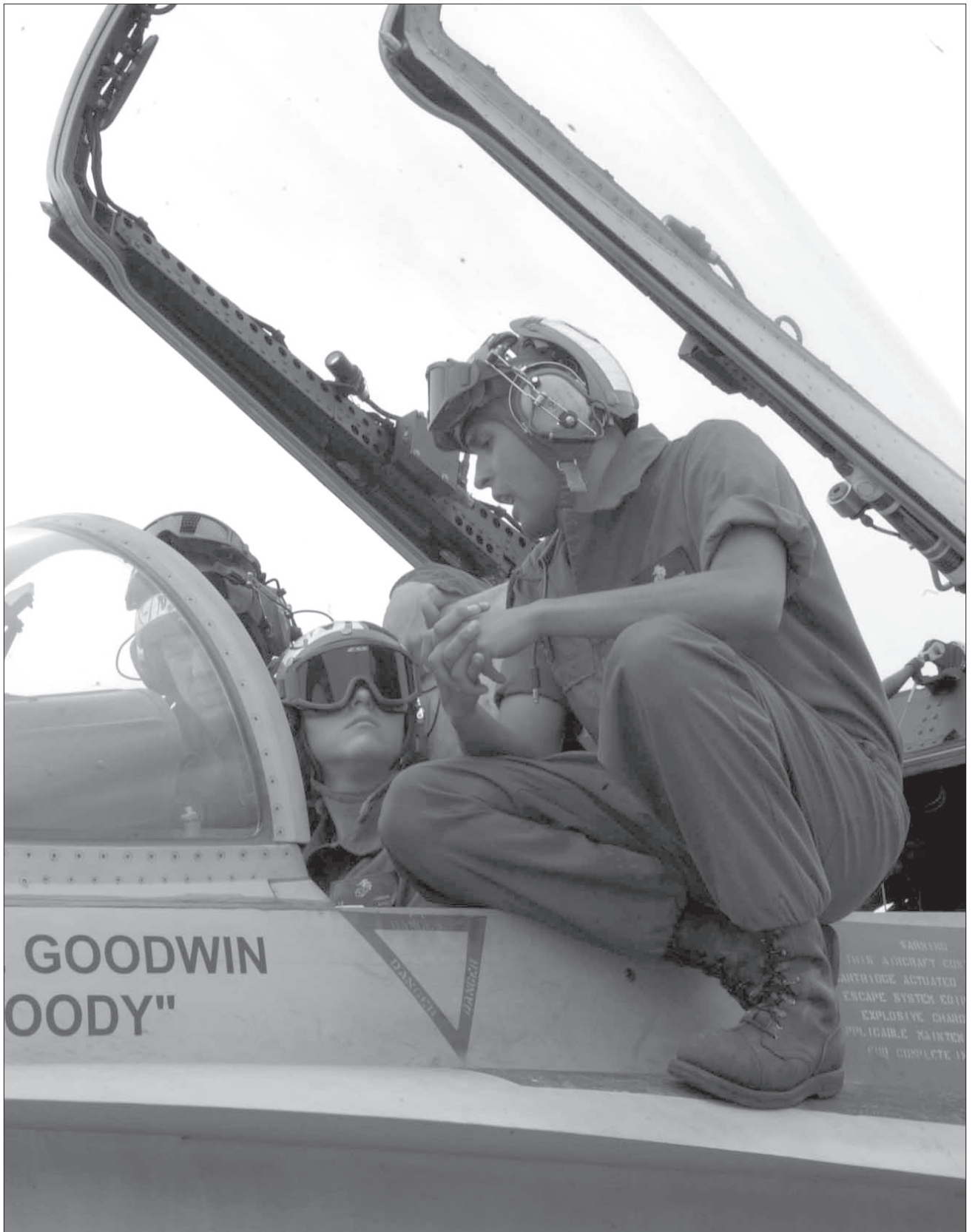
“We require more schooling than any other aviation Marines,” said Tubach. “We almost double the other aviation school courses’ length. Typically, you really are dealing with the best and the brightest in avionics.”

Although avionics Marines get more training than the other aviation Marines, it does not mean that Marines know every detail about what they are working on. Sometimes they have to look it up.

“You are taught from an early age in the Marine Corps to think outside the box,” Tubach said. “You can’t just go down a list here. You have to actually know what you are doing well enough to troubleshoot it.”

Although each individual learns a great deal about the computer systems in avionics, everybody has their specific task, which has to be checked and completed every time a plane comes in.

“The aircraft are so technologically advanced that without the avionics Marines there is no way the mission could be accomplished,” Crawford concluded.



Lance Cpl. Nicholas D. Meyer (left), Lance Cpl. Kimberly S. Johnson (middle), and Cpl. Reynaldo Salgado work as a team to perform their safety checks on an F/A-18C Hornet's computer systems at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar June 2. All three Marines are with the communication and navigation shop of avionics section, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and are responsible to make sure the communications, navigation, electronic warfare and radar systems remain operable inside their squadron's aircraft. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



## Miramar Inn expansion opens with ceremony

Brigadier Gen. Carl B. Jensen, commanding general, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., (3rd from left), in conjunction with Col. Ray Adamiec, assistant chief of staff, installations and logistics, MCAS Miramar representatives from Harper Construction and the Navy Facilities team, cuts the ribbon in front of the new Miramar Inn June 10. The Inn features 46 standard-size rooms equipped with two queen-size beds, a microwave and refrigerator, a 27-inch TV and satellite cable. The Inn's six suites contain everything the standard rooms have, with a separate living room, fold out sofa bed, 42-inch plasma TV and a full-size kitchen with pots, pans and dishes. All guests have access to the backyard BBQ section, ready room with complimentary breakfast, business center with future high speed Internet and guest laundry facility. *Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones*

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cruiting in May, Carr said he's optimistic that rates will pick up during the summer, when new high school graduates begin enlisting.

Despite the pressures recruiters are up against - a strong economy, higher recruitment goals and lack of support by many parents and other people who influence a person's recruitment decision - Carr said the military won't drop its standards to fill its ranks.

The Department of Defense requires that 90 percent of recruits have high school diplomas and that at least 60 percent of them get higher-than-average scores on the Armed Forces Qualification Test. All active components met these standards in May.

Carr said neither requirement can be easily compromised. High school diplomas represent "a stick-to-it-iveness and ability to follow through," he said, a strong indicator of whether a recruit will successfully complete an initial enlistment.

In addition, there's "a direct, compelling correlation" between recruits' aptitude test scores and their productivity and job performance, Carr said. "High aptitude translates into performance," he said.

Similarly, Carr said the Defense Department has no interest in resorting to a draft. "There is zero chance that the department is going to a draft," he said.

Today's weapon systems demand an environment in which experienced non-commissioned officers work hand in hand with junior members so they can develop

their skills before advancing in the ranks, Carr said. And that's a dynamic the conscription system simply doesn't promote, he said.

"We need more people beyond their first term of service, and we don't want 'shake and bake' sergeants holding control over lethal systems," he said.

"Conscription is fatal to our performance," Carr said. "It's not a social thing. It's a performance thing."

### SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

*An appreciative audience awaits*





Dave Bognacki, firefighter, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department, glances back at his crew June 7 impatiently waiting on water pressure as a training fire rages at Camp Pendleton. Bognacki was one of four firefighters from Miramar to participate in Camp Pendleton's training fires. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

# Firefighters battle training fire in real environment

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A firefighter pushed his way into the blazing brush, holding a hose nozzle and directing its powerful stream of water onto the over-heated ground curling with flames that leapt at him like a pack of hungry wolves. He and his crew of four fought to gain the outer edge of the nearly out of control field fire that hungered to feed on the houses of the small town nearby.

The firefighters with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department traveled to Camp Pendleton June 7, to participate in a live

fire training exercise, including firefighters from stations all around Southern California.

"The training is invaluable," said Capt. Danny Rivas, fire captain, Miramar Fire Department. "Year after year there is new information that comes out. We have several classes we take and those are good, but there is nothing like going out and doing live fire training."

Although the training is a good experience for these firefighters, safety for them remains paramount.

"The main thing that we stress to our firefighters is safety first," said Rivas, a San Diego native. "Without safety we cannot take

our training to the next level. Unfortunately, we learn from other firefighter's mistakes and mishaps. So we are constantly getting briefed, refreshed and taught of existing and new safety issues."

According to Josh Allen, engineer, Miramar Fire Department, fires should never be underestimated, no matter how small or harmless they appear.

"I wouldn't go up to a fire with the attitude that this is a small fire and it won't do anything," said Allen. "I just learned today, no matter how insignificant the fire looks, it can turn into a life crisis."

With the first fire the Miramar Fire Department trained on, it quickly spread from 25 square feet into a gaping 25 acres in a very short period of time.

"We walked into a mundane situation and in a matter of minutes it turned into a really big fire," said Allen, a Temecula, Calif., native. "This was all called training, but this was a real fire. It was the most beneficial part of today, being in a real environment, a real fire."

However, these training fires also allow firefighters to take on positions they've never faced before or have been taught but never trained in.

"I'm an engineer and have been put into roles way above my caliber," said Allen. "A lot of us have been educated school-wise but have never had the chance to actually do it. This gave us the chance to train on a higher level that you just can't do on a real fire. It is a safer environment for learning but a real environment."

Although this training helped firefighters, the Miramar Fire Department set high stan-

dards in regards to training for their firefighters.

"We have a very strict way of training our personnel," Rivas concluded. "We try to train them to the highest level possible. Fortunately for us, being here on Miramar we have supplies from the station, support from the Marines and support from the other fire stations. All three benefit from us and the training that they provide for us. This is the best we can have. We could not get this training outside."



Jerry Garcia, firefighter, U.S. Forest Service, (left), Doug Fairbanks (center) and Dave Bognacki, firefighters, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department, cut a fire off from fuel on Camp Pendleton June 7, during live training fires. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



Doug Fairbanks, firefighter, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department, rolls a fire hose into a bundle to take back to a fire truck after a training fire was extinguished on Camp Pendleton June 7. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*





# Cook finds passion in body building

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Still perspiring from his morning workout, Sgt. Frank Bugner walks into his small cubicle and grabs a protein bar from his fridge full of chicken, tuna fish, cottage cheese and other protein-packed items.

Before sitting down at his desk, surrounded by autographed posters of muscle-heavy bodybuilders and a second place World Gym Classic trophy, the short and muscular Bugner changes the date on his muscle competition countdown calendar.

A year ago, the 23-year-old cash collection agent with food services department, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., ran a second-class Physical Fitness Test and was five pounds away from reaching his maximum weight. Now, after months of hard work, Bugner has found his passion in body building.

“I was always small and when I joined the Marines I weighed about 135 pounds,” said Bugner, looking down at his desk full of papers. “Then a year of drinking and not working out caught up with me and I gained 15 pounds. I soon scored my first second class PFT.”

Not happy with his lifestyle, Bugner was determined to make a change.



**Sergeant Frank Bugner, cash collection agent, food service department, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, stares at his reflection as he lifts a weight at the main gym in preparation for his next body building competition. Bugner wasn't always fit. Last year, Bugner scored his first second-class Physical Fitness Test and decided it was time to change. After months of working out, Bugner is now flexing his muscles in competitions. *Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones***

“I looked in the mirror one day and decided it was time to get back in shape,” shrugged the reserved sergeant. “I started working out at the gym (almost) everyday - about five to six days a week - and just kept going. In high school I always

avoided the weight room and now I'm in there all of the time.

“I can't recall what I used to do before I started this,” he said. “It's tough getting started in the beginning. The hardest part is getting to the gym, especially after work and you just want to relax, but once you get there it comes natural.”

Soon, Bugner's new routine started to catch the attention of others.

“I used to work with him at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego,” said Warrant Officer Lenroy C. Cummings, food services officer, MCAS Miramar. “When I left MCRD in 2003, he had no weight to him, and when I came here, I figure it had been maybe 15 months since I last saw him and he had put on over 25 pounds of muscle mass. I was shocked.”

Cummings, who has competed in body building competitions since 2001, encouraged Bugner to enter his first competition last March. Bugner started preparing for the competition months in advance.

“Body building is a science and more of a mental thing,” said Cummings. “You have to know how to build muscle and know what you're going to do before going to the gym. You can't take supplements and go to the gym. It takes diet, training and cardio.”

For six months, Bugner read muscle magazines, ate a protein-rich diet and stayed consistent with his exercises.

“I thought this was a one time thing,” said Gunnery Sgt. Paul Rieper, alternative contract officers representative, MCAS Miramar. “When I first met him he wasn't as committed to body building, but when I went to his first competition I saw that smile he had and years from now, I could still see him doing this. He has the fever now.”

Bugner placed second in the men's unlimited bantamweight competition at the General Nutrition Centers National Physique Committee World Gym Classic. Though only one other bodybuilder

competed in his category, Bugner came close to winning.

“There was only a five point difference between him and nine years experience,” Cummings said about the winner, who has seen several competitions before. “When you get up on stage it takes a lot of courage. There's about 500 people looking at you and you're in nothing but bikini briefs. I was nervous when I got up there, but he (Bugner) doesn't get that way.”

Though Bugner is modest about his achievement, the trophy adorns his personalized desk. However, a cutout of a bodybuilding slogan reading, “I eat alone. I go to the gym alone. I train alone. Only I know what it took to get this far. Only I know how far I'll go. Body building is a lonely journey” covers the trophy placard.

“He's going to make it happen,” smiled Cummings. “He's hungry and he wants it.”

Bugner, who describes himself as a dreamer, is currently training for his next competition in July and according to the ambitious Marine, anyone who believes they can do something can achieve their goals.

“If you really want it and see yourself there, then yeah, you can do it,” he said. “If you say you want it and don't do something about it, you're just wishing.”

As for his future, Bugner sees himself as a Marine living on the West Coast, in what he calls “the mecca of body building and concerts,” flexing his muscles in competitions and going to live shows and perhaps becoming a famous bodybuilder.

“I'm very confident, and I see him going far,” said Cummings. “When he puts his mind to something, he's going to do it.”

After work, Bugner grabs a protein bar for the road and heads to his room for a quick nap before heading to the gym. According to Bugner, the gym is open until midnight, which suits his schedule fine.



# MCCS deploys to Iraq

Story by Master Gunnery Sgt.  
Constance S. Dillard

*II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)*

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — When the personnel requirements for the Marine Corps Community Service exchange mission in Iraq grew beyond its military personnel resources, it found a willing and untapped resource within its ranks. MCCS civilians, many of which are military spouses, rose to the occasion by gladly volunteering to fill personnel shortages at military exchanges serving Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen in Iraq.

As such, three MCCS civilians fulfill that need at the Camp Fallujah Exchange. Known as the “Three Js”, each left her husband, children and the comforts of life back home to serve their country in the one way they could best, by augmenting the exchange system.

“I just wanted to do my part, to be here in support of the many men and women out here trying to make a difference,” said Jamie Dollahan, a Riverside, Calif., native. “To help, no matter how little it is at times. Not to be at home watching it on TV.”

Because the Marine Corps Exchange military occupational specialty is so small and the mission out here kept expanding, Army & Air Force Exchange Service asked MCCS Headquarters to provide additional resources, according to Master Sgt. Francisco Olmos, Camp Fallujah Exchange staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. Those additional resources turned out to be MCCS civilians to fill billets ranging from administrative duties inside the exchange to logistical support in the

warehouse. This is the first time in Olmos’ 19-year career that he has seen spouses, civilian MCCS Marines, support the exchange in this manner.

“I’m prior military (Marines) and served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the idea of coming here to help out as a civilian was just exciting,” said Janet Hawkins, a Shreveport, La., native. “It brought back days when I only wished there was an American or just someone to converse with at the very small exchange we had at our location (during Desert Shield/Storm).”

In preparation for the mission, every MCCS civilian goes through a two-day briefing at Quantico, Va., which covers the Marine sites in Iraq and the basics of what would be expected from them ranging from billeting, the environment, deployment incentives and pay including all human resources issues, according to Olmos, who is on his third deployment in support of OIF. Additionally, all of the MCCS civilians went through five days of deployment training at the CONUS Replacement Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. During CRC, they receive first responders training, anti-terrorism briefings, Improvised Explosive Device identification classes, defensive orientation and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training to include donning a gas mask. Once they land in Kuwait their AAFES training occurs in operating procedures, security measures and ordering merchandise class. This is also considered the first day of their six-month deployment.

“I have not regretted my decision, and I am



## Planted palms, plaque honor WWII Marines

Brigadier Gen. Carl B. Jensen, commanding general, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., unveils the new plaque dedicated to the newly planted palm trees aboard the air station June 10. The eight trees, which were originally planted at MCAS Santa Barbara, Calif., by World War II Marines returning from the South Pacific, moved to MCAS El Toro, Calif., in 1946. Last year, under the direction of Maj. Gen. Jon A Gallinetti, former commanding general of MCAS Miramar, the trees were planted at the start of the red course to honor the WWII Marines. *Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones*

proud and honored to have this opportunity to serve,” said June Russell, born in Scotland and currently a San Diego resident. “There was a moment during the CRC at a 5 a.m. formation

that I thought ‘oh my God, what have I gotten myself into’, but that passed very quickly.”

Currently there are 11 MCCS civilians on six-month temporary additional duty orders.





A Marine Attack Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, AV-8B Harrier, piloted by Capt. Timothy A. Foster, lands on the flight deck of the USS TARAWA (LHA-1) during the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Special Operations Capable Exercise. The jets from VMA-211 are provided as tactical reinforcements for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, for the upcoming Western Pacific deployment. *Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt*

## 13th MEU prepares to deploy

Story by Cpl. Andy Hurt

*13th MEU*

ABOARD THE USS TARAWA — The sounds of anchor chains rumbled through the narrow halls of the USS Tarawa the morning of June 8, signaling the final at-sea period for the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit during pre-deployment work-up training.

The Special Operations Capable Exercise will determine whether the MEU is qualified to accomplish specialized amphibious operations while they endure the upcoming Western Pacific deployment, scheduled for mid-July through early 2006.

Each element of the MEU, including MEU Service Support Group-13, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, and the reinforced Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, will be executing pre-planned training missions evaluated by the Special Operations Training Group in the hopes of gaining "Special Operations Capable" certification.

Throughout the six-month work-up cycle, which began in January, the 13th MEU has trained in an urban environment, worked as a collective force, trained with Naval Expeditionary Strike Group 1 and employed itself as a fully-functioning Marine Air-Ground Task Force to prepare for real-world situations the unit may face during the deployment as the world's "911 force in readiness."

Essentially, the MEU is comprised of four elements that are easily compared to the functions of an individual warrior.

The central nervous system is the command element. Sections like

operations, data systems and logistics work out the tedious details of specialized operations, including high-level coordination of the MEU Support Elements. The command element also includes the Maritime Special-Purpose Force and 1st Force Reconnaissance Platoon.

The heart and muscle of the 13th MEU is the Ground Combat Element. Filled by the warriors of Battalion Landing Team 2nd battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, the GCE is the landing force in missions.

The BLT is the main fighting effort in combat, security and raid missions.

The arms, legs and eyes of the MEU is the Air Combat Element, comprised of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Reinforced). The squadron is fully equipped with CH-46 Sea Knights, CH-53E Super Stallions and AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters. AV-8B Harrier fighter jets from VMA-211, MAG-13, 3rd MAW, provide tactical reinforcements for the squadron.

The blood of the MEU is MEU Service Support Group-13. The MSSG carries much needed supplies, including food, ammunition and medical supplies, to the MEU in forward operating areas. Without the constant movement and flow of MSSG operations, the MEU could not carry out its missions. The MSSG is also the spearhead of Humanitarian Assistance Operations.

The sum of the four elements is a MAGTF, a basic modern warfare strategic force that has become the essence of the high-speed Navy-Marine Corps Team. Backed by the Navy's ESG-1 ships, the MEU, if it succeeds during SOCEX, will be ready for almost anything.



## MAG-39 changes hands

Colonels Kenneth P. Gardiner (right) and Patrick J. Gough share a handshake after Gardiner relinquished command of Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, June 10 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. Both are longtime members of the light attack helicopter community and MAG-39. Gardiner first reported to Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, MAG-39, in June 1979. Gough followed Gardiner in 1981, joining HMA-169 as well. The two served together several times within the group and have been friends for more than 25 years, according to Gough. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*



Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
6:30 p.m. House of Wax (R)  
9:00 p.m. Kingdom of Heaven (R)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. XXX: State of the Union (PG-13)  
9:00 p.m. A Lot Like Love (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1:00 p.m. King’s Ransom(PG-13)  
6:30 p.m. The Interpreter (PG-13)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. Monster-in-Law (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
2:00 p.m. Robots (Video; FREE) (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Kingdom of Heaven (R)

**Thrift shop closure**

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop will be closed for renovations beginning immediately and is scheduled to reopen in July. Anyone interested in donating goods to the thrift shop is asked to donate to a local thrift shop or charitable organization such as St. Vincent de Paul or Father Joe. For more information, please call (619) 446-2799.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service

**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

**Free Tonight Show dinner**

The Single Marine Program is sponsoring a free trip to a taping of the Tonight Show with a free catered dinner following the show featuring the musical group Black Eyed Peas.

The trip is open to all active duty Marines, including enlisted and officers, who are single or married.

Stop by the Great Escape, Building 5509, to sign-up.

Transportation will be provided and will leave the Great Escape at 10:30 a.m. June 24.

Uniform of the day for the trip is Dress Blue Deltas (no exceptions).

For more information, call (858) 577-6171/6283.

**Charlie Daniels at Mills Park**

Country music legend Charlie Daniels and his band are scheduled to play for Miramar servicemembers 7 p.m. Tuesday at Mills Park. Servicemembers in uniform will have stage front privileges.

The band is visiting as part of the Spirit of America Tour sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services.

**Miramar youth golf lesson**

Sign up now at the Miramar Youth Center for youth golf lessons for ages 8 and up. Lessons cost \$75 for six private lessons from a licensed trainer.

For more information and a lesson schedule with times and dates, call (858) 577-4136.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1989 Chevy Z24	CA/4TVY631	1994 Cadillac SLS	CA/3JFL323
2000 Ford Focus	CA/4JMZ536	1995 Nissan Sentra	CA/SZE4762
Mazda MX-6	FL/JPOJGS	1995 Mits. Eclipse	KY/907KKR
1987 Toyota Camry	CA/5CJZ685	1984 Linc. Limo	CA/3MGV444
Chrysler Shadow	MN/FPR718	1989 Ford Taurus	TX/T40PRC
1989 Toyota Camry	CA/4VI588Z	Unk. Trailer	CA/1VW1350